

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, re-examination and reconsideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

In the present Amendment, claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 6-14, 23 and 40-48 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-5, 27 and 28 were previously canceled. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 15-22, 24-26, 29-39 and 49-51 will be all the claims pending in the application.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 15-22, 24-26, 29, 31-35, 37, 39 and 49 are allowed.

I. Response to Claim Objection

Claims 30, 36, 38, 50 and 51 have been objected to for informalities.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as amended do not contain informalities. In the Amendment, claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b)/103(a)

Claims 6-14, 23 and 40-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over either of U.S. Patent No. 3,301,840 to Zelinski and U.S. Patent No. 5,008,343 to Hellermann et al.

Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of claims 6-14, 23 and 40-48.

III. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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